

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

Atty Dkt. 249-338

C#/M#

NISHIOKA

Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

Serial No. To Be Assigned

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: April 22, 2004

Date: April 22, 2004

Title: HEAD MAINTENANCE MECHANISM FOR INK JET PRINTER AND
INK JET PRINTER INCORPORATING THE SAME

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the reference(s) listed on the attached PTO-1449. One copy of the reference(s) is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the reference(s) be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

- ☒ This Information Disclosure Statement ("IDS") is being filed within three (3) months of the U.S. filing date OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. No certification or fee is required.
- ☐ This IDS is being filed more than three (3) months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance.
- ☐ a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this IDS was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this IDS. 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e)(1).
- ☐ b. I hereby certify that no item of information in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR§1.56(c) more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this IDS. 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e)(2).
- ☐ c. Attached is a check in the amount of \$180.00 in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p). Please credit or debit Deposit Acct No. 14-1140 as needed to ensure consideration of the disclosed information. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.
- ☐ This IDS is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. Attached is our check in the amount of \$180.00 in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p). Please credit or debit Deposit Account No. 14-1140 as needed to ensure consideration of the disclosed information. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.
- ☐ a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this IDS was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this IDS. 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e)(1).
- ☐ b. I hereby certify that no item of information in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR§1.56(c) more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this IDS. 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e)(2).
- ☐ Relevance of the non-English language reference(s) is discussed in the present specification.
- ☐ The reference(s) was/were cited in a counterpart foreign application. An English language version of the foreign search report is attached for the Examiner's information.
- ☐ A concise explanation of the relevance of the non-English language reference(s) appears in the Appendix hereto.
- ☐ The Examiner's attention is directed to co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. _____, filed _____, which is directed to related technical subject matter. The identification of this U.S. Patent Application is not to be construed as a waiver of secrecy as to that application now or upon issuance of the present application as a patent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the cited application and the art cited therein during examination.
- ☒ Copies of the references were cited by or submitted to the Office in parent Application No. 10/303,087 (filed November 25, 2002), which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120. Thus, Form PTO1449 is attached without copies of these references. 37 C.F.R.1.98(d).

☐ Other.

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By Atty: Alan M. Kagen, Reg. No. 36,178

Signature: 

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
CITATION**

(Use several sheets if necessary)

ATTY. DOCKET NO.

249-338

APPLICANT

NISHIOKA

FILING DATE

April 22, 2004

SERIAL NO.

To Be Assigned

GROUP

Not Yet Assigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	4,825,231	4/1989	Nozaki			
	5,733,055	3/1998	Hiramatsu et al.			
	5,831,644	11/1998	Kato			
	5,971,520	10/1999	Nakahara			
	US 2001/0002838	6/2001	Nakahara			
	US 2001/0028373	10/2001	Iwaya et al.			
	6,312,093	11/2001	Saijo et al.			
	6,402,289	6/2002	Nitta			
	6,533,387	3/2003	Simmons et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

DOCUMENT	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
					YES	NO
0 850 773	7/1998	Europe				
0 972 648	1/2000	Europe				
2-263655	10/1990	Japan			Abstract	
6-262768	9/1994	Japan			Abstract	
9-109380	4/1997	Japan			Abstract	
2000-141673	5/2000	Japan			Abstract	
2001-270126	10/2001	Japan			Abstract	
2002-036604	2/2002	Japan			Abstract	
2002-137408	5/2002	Japan			Abstract	

OTHER DOCUMENTS (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent pages, etc.)

*Examiner	Date Considered
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Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to application.

Form PTO-FB-A820 (Also PTO-1449)